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Retaining wall along Veterans Parkway
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PULSE

Your guide to Purple Line news,
information and events

OCTOBER 2021

Message from Matt

Greetings, future Purple Line passengers. I'm Matt Pollack, executive director of Transit Development and Delivery for the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA), which means I'm the person in charge of the Purple Line light rail project. It's my job to make sure the Purple Line stays on track – literally and figuratively.

I'm happy to report that the search for a new design-build contractor for the project is proceeding well. Our project concessionaire, Purple Line Transit Partners (PLTP), continues to move forward with the process of selecting a new design-build contractor. The due date for submitting proposals was recently extended to give bidders more time to complete their due diligence and submit competitively priced proposals. MDOT MTA appreciates PLTP's collaboration to create a framework that will deliver the best possible value for Maryland.

Once under contract with PLTP, the new design-builder will enter a mobilization period geared to resuming full-scale construction as quickly as possible.

We are continuing to advance utility relocation along the alignment, as well as working to complete the Sleaford Road underpass, which connects Sleaford Road to East-West Highway at the intersection of Kentbury Drive and Sleaford Road in Bethesda; removing graffiti and applying special surface coating to deter further vandalism; and re-opening the College Park bus loop this winter.



Matthew Pollack, PE, PMP

This past spring, we held a series of seven virtual Community Advisory Team (CAT) meetings to inform residents and businesses along the alignment of the project's status, including ongoing work and other construction activities scheduled to take place during the coming months. The presentations from the CAT meetings can be found in the "Public Involvement" section on the Purple Line [website](https://purplelinemd.com).

We look forward to seeing you at the next round of virtual CAT meetings this fall!

Matt

Sign up to receive construction notifications at purplelinemd.com

Construction Photo/Update:



Photos clockwise from left: Reinforced steel is carefully assembled for the wall along Veterans Parkway; above left: As the temporary bridge and embankments are removed, the tunnel under the Baltimore-Washington Parkway for the Purple Line can be seen; above right: Crews work on flyover abutment footing from Veterans Parkway to the Glenridge Center parking lot

Business Spotlight: A Local Go-To

The construction crews on the Purple Line project have long enjoyed one of Prince George's County's best kept secrets, Pollo Fiesta, 6408 Kenilworth Ave., Riverdale. Whether it's breakfast, lunch or dinner, the workers enjoy Pollo Fiesta's great food, huge portions and lively music. Known for its wide variety of Mexican food and pollo a la brasa (Peruvian roasted chicken or rotisserie chicken in the U.S.), Pollo Fiesta is also a family favorite for neighboring communities. The restaurant is also a favorite of our staff, who grab a quick bite for lunch several times a week. If you ask them where to eat, they will quickly tell you about the small, hard-to-miss, vibrantly colored building

within walking distance of the Purple Line project management office. And they will surely not forget to suggest trying one of their menu favorites like chicken fajitas or burritos, crab and shrimp quesadillas, fried calamari or sopapillas for dessert. Like many other restaurants that have had to pivot to respond to the pandemic, Pollo Fiesta can now be found on Grubhub.com. If you are looking for a warm smile, welcoming "hello," and economically priced and plentiful authentic dishes, make your next take-out order with Pollo Fiesta! For other businesses along the corridor, please visit here: <https://www.purplelinemd.com/business-engagement/business-spotlights>



You asked...We delivered!

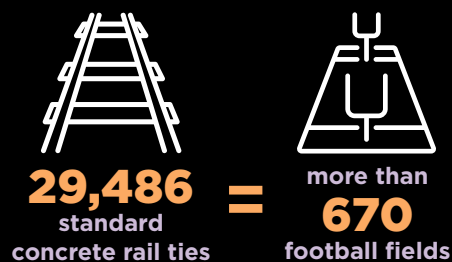
At the request of the Montgomery County Parks Department, the project recently cleared a site and installed a platform barrier to protect tree roots along Sligo Creek.



Purple Line Fast Fact:

What are rail ties? Rail ties are the primary lateral support for the rails themselves, anchoring the track and giving it a solid, sound base upon which trains can pass over.

The completed Purple Line will utilize 29,486 standard concrete rail ties. This is equal to more than 670 football fields in length.



People Behind the Purple Line: Transit Superfan

Meet Joel Ryerson, the Adelphi resident who has attended almost all of the 50-plus Community Advisory Team (CAT) meetings and open houses held over the past four years for the project in both Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

A member of the CAT teams for the University Boulevard and College Park communities, Joel's personal ID in those groups is "Superfan," selected primarily for his love of University of Maryland sports. He could just as easily be called "CAT Man."

During the meetings and in other informational briefings, Joel consistently raises important questions about bus lines and bus access, since he typically travels the region – and makes it to our in-person CAT meetings – via public transportation.

"I want to stay informed and ask questions," Joel said when asked about his commitment to attending CAT meetings. "I take buses and trains everywhere I go, and I can't wait until I can use the Purple Line, too."



Joel attending one of many Purple Line community events over the years